

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for producing a flexible imaging member belt with a smooth seam region comprising

a support member having a flat surface adapted to receive and support a seam region of a flexible imaging member belt comprising thermoplastic polymer material having a predetermined glass transition temperature,

a heatable member having a smooth heatable flat surface for heating and compressing at least a portion of the seam region of a flexible imaging member belt placed on the smooth flat surface of the support member to heat the portion to at least the glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic polymer material, the smooth surface of the heatable member having a profile which is parallel to the smooth flat surface of the support member, and wherein the heatable flat surface comprises a low surface energy or adhesive material.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to **claim 10** wherein the heatable member is a strip aligned for centering over the seam, and wherein the strip has a width of between about 6 mm and about 30 mm.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to **claim 11** wherein a rotatable compression wheel contacts the strip to compress the strip against the seam.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to **claim 10** wherein the heatable member is the compression heating bar having a smooth heatable flat surface aligned to contact and uniformly compress the entire seam from one edge of the belt to the other edge.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to **claim 10** wherein the heatable member is a rotatable compression wheel having a profile which is parallel to the flat surface of the support member.

16. (Original) Apparatus according to **claim 15** wherein the rotatable compression heating wheel surface comprises a low surface energy or adhesive

material.

17. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the strip is a metal or a plastic.

18. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the strip is an electrically resistive material or a composite device.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the strip comprises a supporting member containing imbedded resistance wires spaced to ensure uniform heating along the length of the strip.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the strip raises the temperature of the seam area from about 2°C to 25°C above the glass transition temperature (T_g) of the thermoplastic polymer material in at least the charge transport layer of the electrophotographic imaging member belt.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the rotatable compression wheel comprises a hard plastic, metal, or composite material.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the rotatable compression wheel is a metal wheel with a smooth polished surface.

24. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein a rotatable compression wheel may be moved manually or automatically.

25. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the compression heating bar has a width of from about 6 millimeters to about 25.4 millimeters.

26. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14 10 wherein the low surface energy or adhesive material comprises Teflon, fluoro-hydrocarbon polymer, silicone, polyimide, and the like.

27. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the low surface energy or adhesive material is a thin Teflon coating.